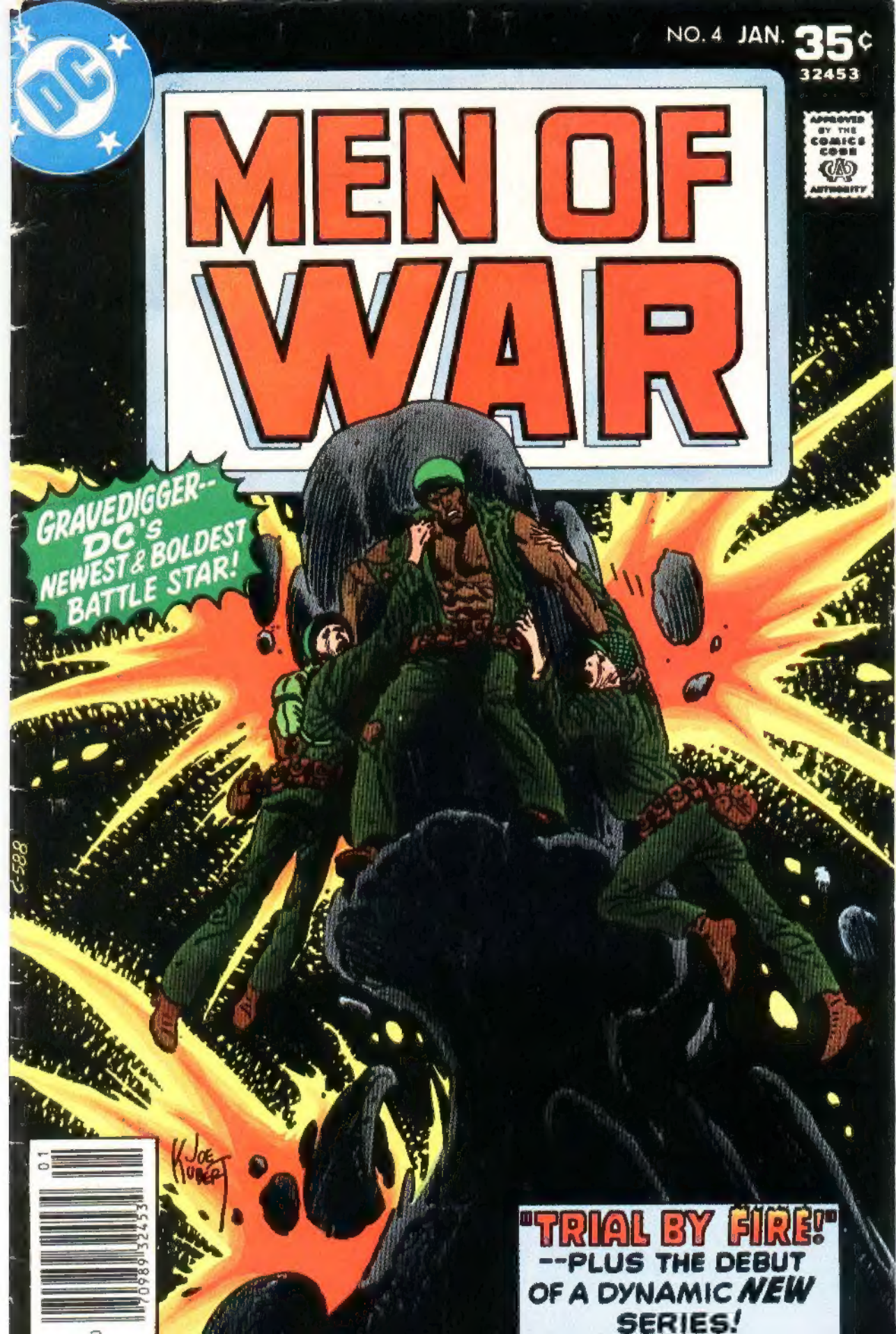
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MEN OF WAR
GRAVEDIGGER-- DC's NEWEST & BOLDEST BATTLE STAR!
JOE KUBERT
"TRIAL BY FIRE!" --PLUS THE DEBUT OF A DYNAMIC NEW SERIES!

STRICKEN WITH POLIO AS A CHILD, ULYSSES HAZARD HAD FOUGHT TO BUILD HIS FRAIL BODY INTO A POWERHOUSE OF STRENGTH AND STAMINA. BUT WHEN HE JOINED THE ARMY TO PROVE HIS ABILITIES, THE COLOR OF HIS SKIN KEPT HIM IN THE MENIAL RANKS OF BURIAL DETAIL -- UNTIL HE TOOK ON THE PENTAGON ITSELF TO EARN COMBAT CLEARANCE, COMMANDO STATUS ... AND THE DREADED CODE-NAME:
Gravedigger
DAVID MICHELINE - WRITER ★ DICK AYERS & ROMEO TANGHAL - ARTISTS ★ JERRY SERPE - COLORIST
BEN ODA - LETTERER ★ PAUL LEVITZ - EDITOR
APPEARANCES CAN SOMETIMES BE DECEIVING. FOR INSTANCE: TAKE THE SCENE YOU SEE HERE. TO SOME, IT MIGHT SUGGEST AN IRONIC AND RATHER UNJUST END TO GRAVEDIGGER'S FIRST MISSION -- THAT OF DESTROYING AN ENEMY TANK COUCHED IN A FORTIFIED CAVE...
NO, LIEUTENANT, DON'T THROW THAT GRENADE --
-- OR YOU'LL KILL US ALL!
BUT THOSE WHO READ OUR LAST ISSUE KNOW THAT IT MIGHT JUST AS EASILY HINT AT THE END OF --
-- GRAVEDIGGER HIMSELF!
TRIAL BY FIRE

MEN OF WAR, Vol. 2, No. 4, January, 1978. Published monthly (with the exception of Oct., Dec., Feb., Apr. and June) by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Copyright © 1977 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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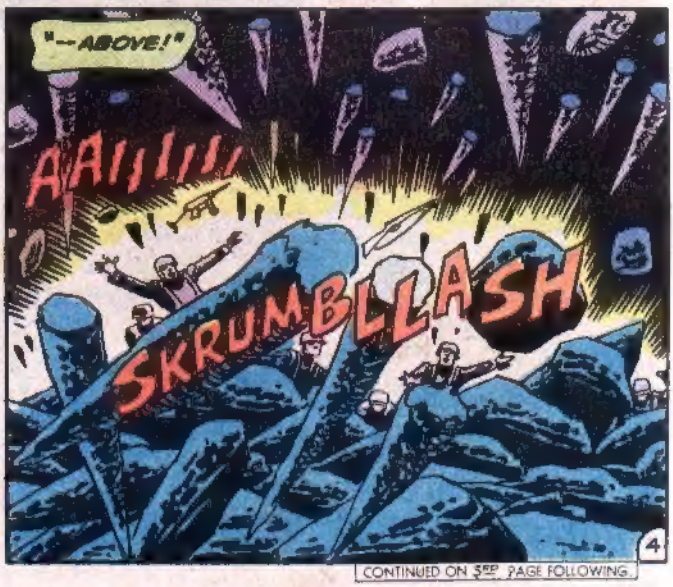
THE WARNING CRY GOES UNHEEDED-- BUT THE IMPACT OF 180 POUNDS OF FLYING COMMANDO IS SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT TO IGNORE...
WHHHMMFF?!
PLING!
LOOSE GRENADE! HIT THE DECK!
GRABBIN' GROUND AIN'T GONNA DO NO GOOD-- THESE G.I.S ARE TOO CONCENTRATED! THE SHRAPNEL'S SURE TO GET A COUPLE OF 'EM, UNLESS...
BLABOOM!
BLAST YOUR HIDE, HAZARD! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR?
JUST FIX YOUR BABY-BLUES ON THOSE CANNISTERS, GAGE! THEY'RE FUEL DRUMS!
AN' IF YOUR GRENADE HAD LANDED ANYWHERE NEAR 'EM, WE'D ALL BE BARBECUED BY NOW!

WHICH IS WHY I'M GONNA FORGET YOU USED ME FOR A DECOY TO REACH THE BACK ENTRANCE OF THIS CAVE--*
--AT LEAST UNTIL YOU GET YOUR MEN OUTA HERE AN'--
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYPLACE, HAZARD!
*AS SHOWN LAST ISSUE.
I DIDN'T MAKE YOU A CAPTAIN, AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO TAKE ORDERS FROM SOME UPPITY COLORED!
GET DOWN, YOU IDIOT! OR THE ONLY COLOR YOU'LL SEE IS GONNA BE--
"--RED!"
UUUUNNGGGG...
VWIP
VWIP
VWIP
THE CRAZY FOOL! I JUST HOPE THE REST OF YOU LISTEN BETTER!
'CAUSE I'M ORDERIN' YOU TO FALL BACK--
--NOW!
BDDDDOWDOW!
KRAK
K-BLAM!
STUMBLING, THE BULLET-BATHED WARRIORS SCRAMBLE HURRIEDLY INTO THE CAVERN'S REAR PASSAGEWAYS...
3

BUT SUDDENLY, AS IF IN GRIM REPLY...
BDDRRRP
POW
KPOW
NAZIS! THEY MUST'VE FOUND THE BACK ENTRANCE WHEN THEY WERE LOOKIN' FOR WHOEVER TOOK OUT THAT MACHINE GUN NEST!*
*AGAIN, LAST ISH.



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IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO THE VILLAGE NOW, SOLDIER. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING THE GOOD LIEUTENANT BACK SAFELY.
BUT, CAP'N, WHAT ABOUT YOU?

MEH! WELL, I FIGURE THE NAZIS WON'T BE EXPECTIN' ANOTHER ATTACK FROM THE REAR -- AN' I STILL HAVE A JOB TO DO!
B-BUT, THEY GOTTA HAVE THE REAR GUARDED BY NOW--!
JUST GET BACK TO THE VILLAGE, MISTER! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOIN'!

I HOPE...

AND SOON, AFTER CERTAIN PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE...
TERRIFIC. NOT ONLY IS THE REAR GUARDED, BUT THOSE SENTRIES ARE SO FAR APART THAT IF I PLUG ONE, THE OTHER'S BOUND TO GET ME!
WHICH MEANS MY TARGET'S GOTTA BE--

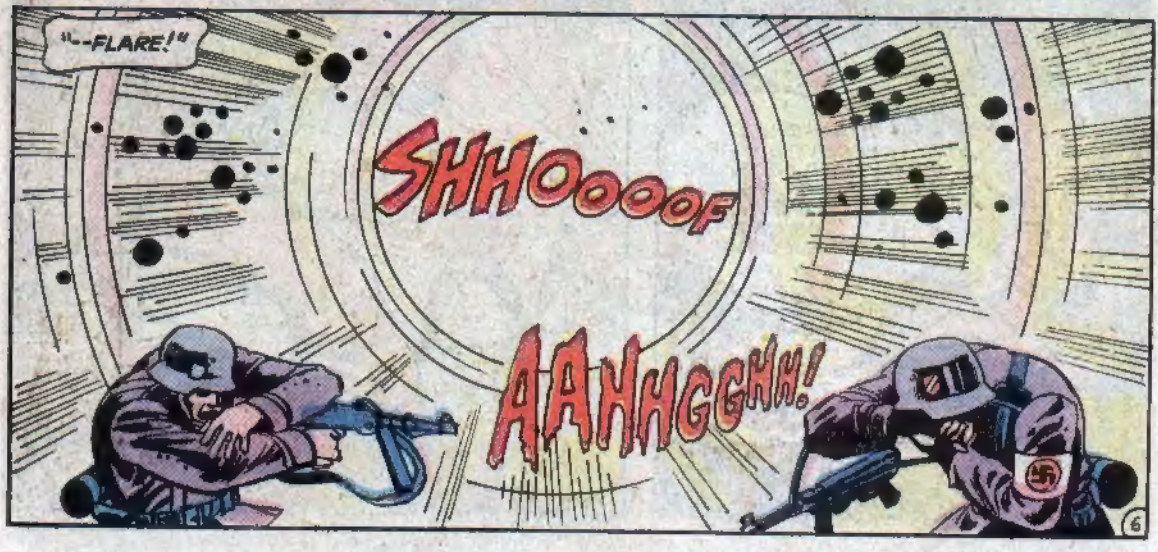
--NEITHER!
CH-BLAM
5

SKRASHSSSS
ACH! DAS LICHT!

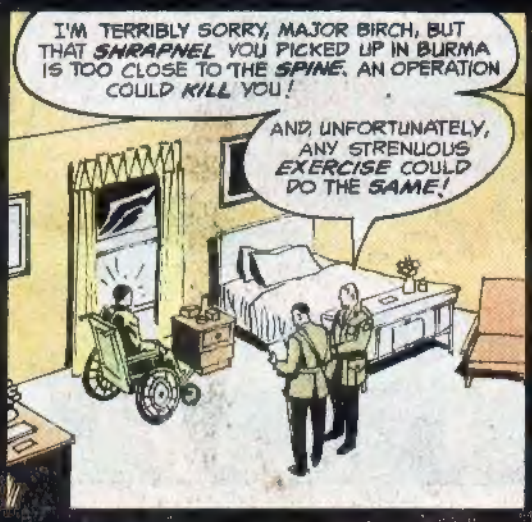
BE CAREFUL, HERMANN!
NOT TO WORRY, ERLICH. IT MAY BE DARK, BUT THE SWINE'S MUZZLE FLASH GAVE AWAY HIS POSITION! AND SOON--
--HE WILL BE ONE DEAD AMERIKANER!

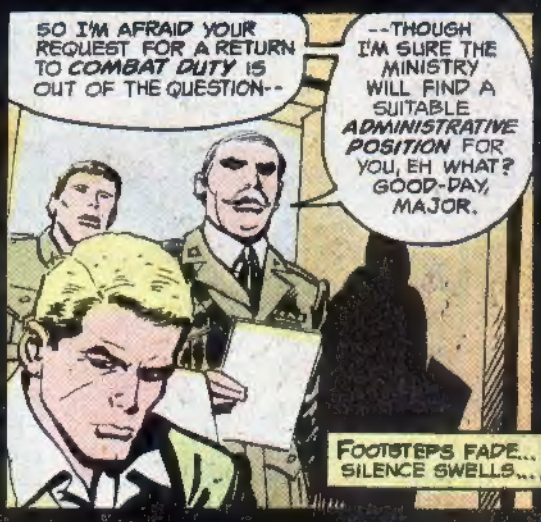
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT, PAL! THIS HANDKERCHIEF I FILLED WITH THE GUNPOWDER FROM THOSE NAZI CARTRIDGES MIGHT BE PACKED TOO LOOSE TO ACTUALLY EXPLODE--

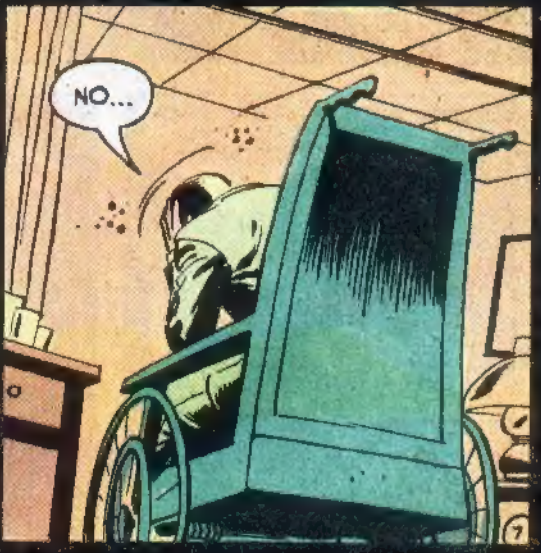
"--BUT IT SHOULD STILL BURN FAST ENOUGH TO MAKE A PRETTY GOOD--"
WAS--?


"--FLARE!"
SHHOOOOF
AAHHGGHH!
6

INTERLUDE:
THREE DAYS EARLIER, A MILITARY HOSPITAL JUST NORTH OF BRIGHTON, ENGLAND...


I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, MAJOR BIRCH, BUT THAT SHRAPNEL YOU PICKED UP IN BURMA IS TOO CLOSE TO THE SPINE. AN OPERATION COULD KILL YOU!
AND, UNFORTUNATELY, ANY STRENUOUS EXERCISE COULD DO THE SAME!


SO I'M AFRAID YOUR REQUEST FOR A RETURN TO COMBAT DUTY IS OUT OF THE QUESTION--
--THOUGH I'M SURE THE MINISTRY WILL FIND A SUITABLE ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION FOR YOU, EH WHAT? GOOD-DAY, MAJOR.
FOOTSTEPS FADE... SILENCE SWELLS...



BUT THIS SCENE OF EMOTIONAL PATHOS OCCURRED *THREE* DAYS *AGO*...AND AT THE *PRESENT* TIME --

-- A HARRIED YOUNG CAPTAIN HAS MORE TANGIBLE PROBLEMS TO CONSIDER...
GOTTA MOVE FAST! THOSE NAZIS MAY BE TEMPORARILY BLINDED, BUT EVEN A WILD SHOT CAN KILL IF IT CONNECTS!
BDDDRRRP
KPOW
POW
WHICH MEANS I BETTER SHOW 'EM THAT DIGGIN' GRAVES AIN'T MY ONLY SPECIALTY--
THRAK
--AN' THAT I'M PRETTY GOOD AT FILLIN' 'EM, TOO!
UUHHHNGG!
AND IN SECONDS, AS CAPTAIN HAZARD ENTERS THE DEADLY FUEL DEPOT...
BLAST! I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! THE NOISE I MADE TAKIN' OUT THOSE GUARDS ALERTED THE OTHERS!
TZZING
BEEOW
BDDRRAP
BUT I GOTTA HOLD 'EM OFF! AT LEAST UNTIL I CAN REACH THAT--
BDDDDDDOW
KRREEK
--TANK...?
KREEEEK
OHHHHHHHH, SH--
8
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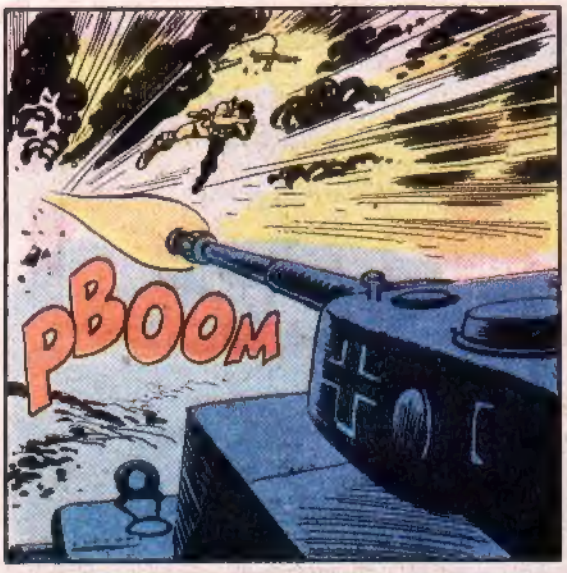
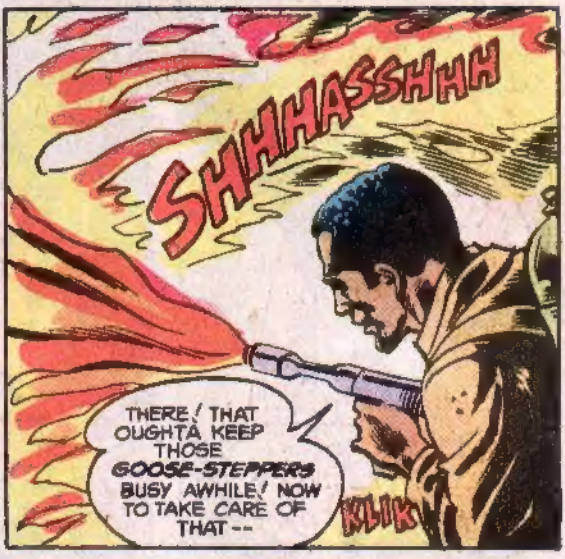
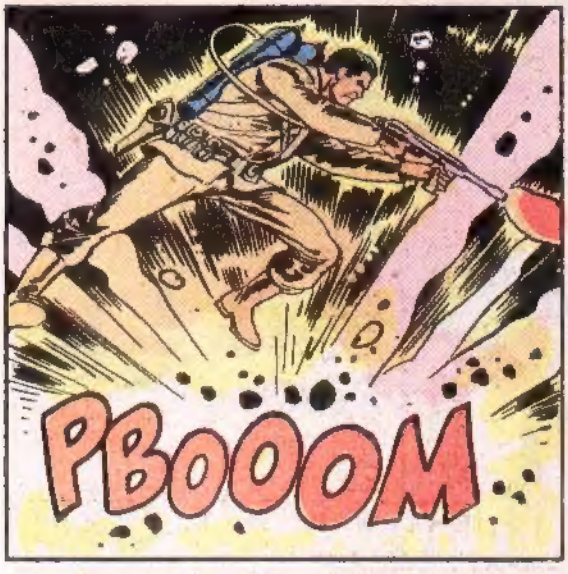
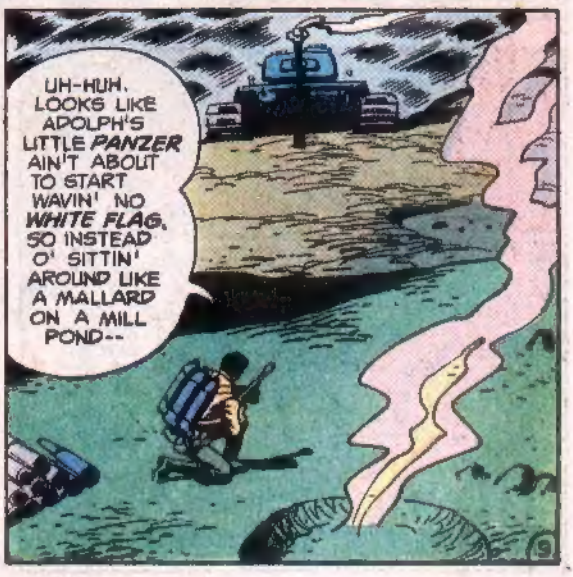

pBOOM

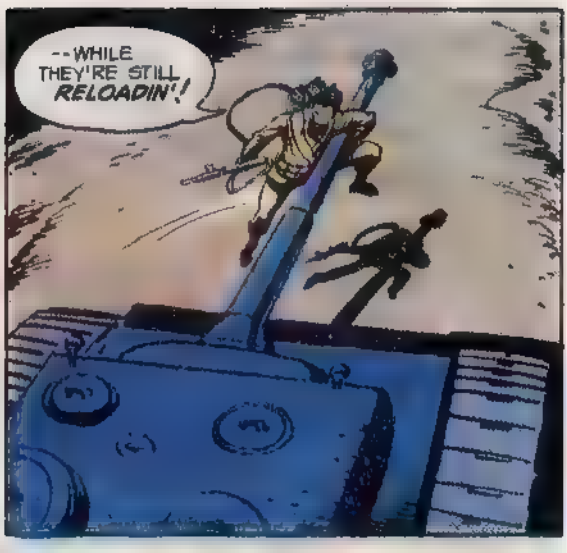
KBLAM
MY THOMPSON'S HAD IT! AND UNLESS I WANT TO BE NEXT--
PWING
VIP

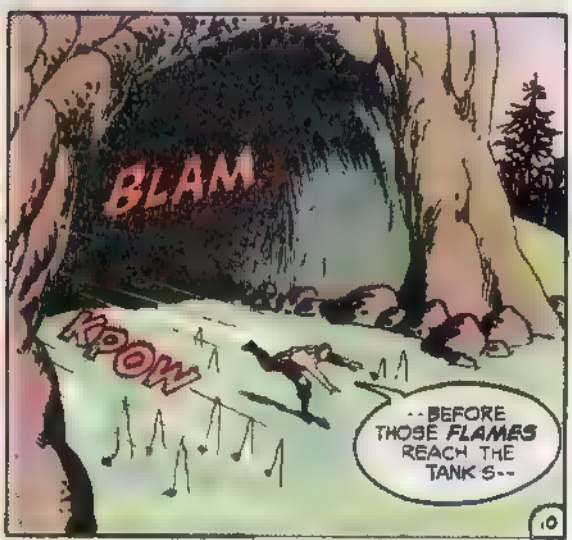
--I'D BETTER START DOIN' SOME DAMN QUICK IMPROVISIN'!


SHHHASSHHH
THERE! THAT OUGHTA KEEP THOSE GOOSE-STEPPERS BUSY AWHILE! NOW TO TAKE CARE OF THAT --
KLIK


PBOOOM


UH-HUH. LOOKS LIKE ADOLPH'S LITTLE PANZER AIN'T ABOUT TO START WAVIN' NO WHITE FLAG, SO INSTEAD O' SITTIN' AROUND LIKE A MALLARD ON A MILL POND--
9





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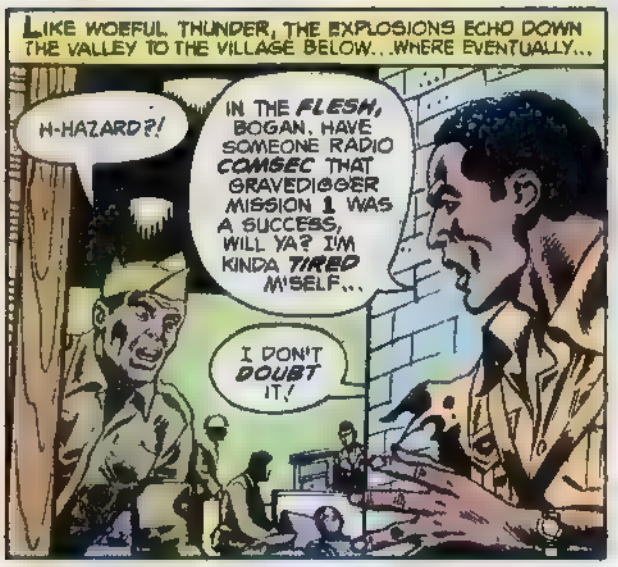
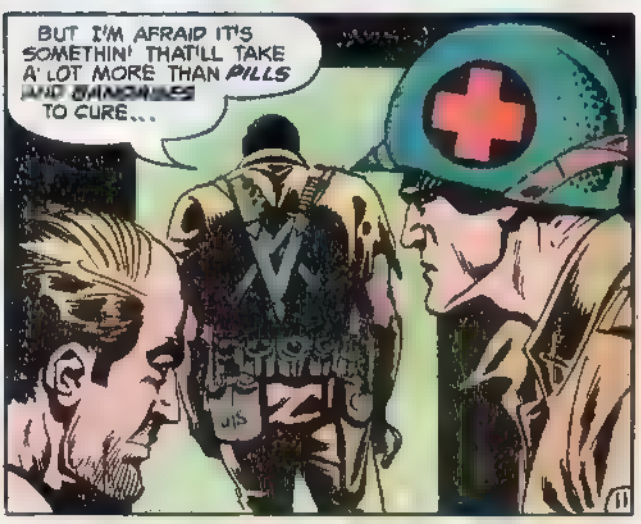

LIKE WOEFUL THUNDER, THE EXPLOSIONS ECHO DOWN THE VALLEY TO THE VILLAGE BELOW...WHERE EVENTUALLY...
H-HAZARD?!
IN THE FLESH, BOGAN. HAVE SOMEONE RADIO COMSEC THAT GRAVEDIGGER MISSION 1 WAS A SUCCESS, WILL YA? I'M KINDA TIRED M'SELF...
I DON'T DOUBT IT!

AFTER ALL, GRABBIN' GLORY ISN'T EASY WORK! 'SPECIALLY WHEN YOU GO TO THE TROUBLE OF SEEIN' THAT A GOOD OFFICER IS HUMILIATED AND WOUNDED IN THE PROCESS!
BUT THEN, SOME OF YOU PEOPLE NEVER DO LEARN TO RESPECT YOUR BETTERS!
WHA--? GAGE, YOU SONOVA--



NEXT: CATHEDRAL! (AND MORE ON OUR MYSTERY MAN) ON SALE DECEMBER 6TH!

EXTRA DAILY PLANET EXTRA

VOLUME 77 ISSUE 41 | WEEK OF OCTOBER 10 1977 | BOB ROZAKIS EDITOR | ANTHONY TOLLIN PRODUCTION

BOO!

HALLOWEEN CHILLERS IN HOUSE OF MYSTERY!

(House of Mystery)—It's nearly Halloween and *Cain* and his brother *Abel* have come up with a chilling collection of stories to celebrate the occasion.

To keep you on the edge of your seat, they tell their collected guests of the "Blood of the Vampire" (by Michael Fleisher, Romeo Tanghal and Bob Smith); "Museum of Murder" (by Michael Pellowski, Robert Kanigher and Alex Nino); "Perfect Poison" (Pellowski, Steve Skeates, Ernie Chan and Vince Colletta); "Raise the Devil" (Coram Nobis and Rubeny); "The Worm Turns" (Fleisher, Russell Carley and Alfredo Alcala); and "Satan's Child" (Jack Oleck and Arthur Suydam). With the usual collection of Cain's Game Room pages, an adventure across the street in the House of Secrets and more, this Dollar Comic is just the thing for chill your heart on a cold Halloween night! You won't want to miss *HOUSE OF MYSTERY #256* when it goes on sale the week of October 17th!

JUSTICE SOCIETY SPLITS UP!

(Earth-Two)—After the monumental battle which pitted the old-timers in the ranks of the *Justice Society* against the newer members, the time has come for "A Parting of the Ways" in *ALL-STAR COMICS #70*, on sale the week of October 17th.

The retirees go back to their private lives; Alan (*Green Lantern*) Scott, his Gotham Broadcasting Company ruined forever by the Psycho Pirate, heads for Keystone City for a job with Jay (*The Flash*) Garrick's engineering firm; *Power Girl* heads off on her own (and what happens will be revealed in the upcoming issues of *SHOWCASE . . . #'s 97-99*); and only *Wildcat* and the *Star Spangled Kid* are left to handle a gang of super-powered bank robbers calling themselves the *Strike Force!* But then, enter the *Huntress*.

The action is all there in *ALL-STAR #70*, by Paul Levitz, Joe Staton and Bob Layton. Pick up a copy and find out why this is the super-team book everybody is talking about!

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: Are *Metamorpho, Zatanna, Plastic Man, Hawkgirl, Supergirl* and *Red Tornado* members of the *Justice League*?—Mike Earll. *Q:* Isn't *Captain Marvel* in the *Justice League*?—Jeffrey Warren. *A:* According to *AMAZING WORLD OF DC COMICS #14, Hawkgirl* and *Red Tornado* are full members of the *JLA*, *Metamorpho* is a reserve member, *Zatanna* is a stand-by member, and *Supergirl* does not belong. *Plastic Man* and *Captain Marvel*, who live on other Earths, are also not members. *Q:* How come the 30th centuries the *Legion* and Iris (Mrs. *Flash*) Allen are not the same?—John McLennan. *A:* They, along with the worlds of *Kamandi* and the *Star Hunters*, are alternate futures, existing much like the parallel Earths which exist in the present! *Q:* What is a Shazam Award?—Ken Hommel. *A:* An award voted by the members of the ACBA for excellence (i.e. best story, best art, best coloring). *Q:* Is *CLAW* coming back in the near future?—Michael Guenthner. *A:* *CLAW* will be back on the newsstands in early 1978. Watch the Daily Planet for the exact date!

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF OCTOBER 17th

BRAVE & BOLD #139—Commissioner Gordon's one mistake comes back to haunt him as *Hawkman* joins forces with *Batman* in "Requium For a Top Cop" by Bob Haney and Jim Aparo.

OUR FIGHTING FORCES #177—It's curtains for one of the members in "This Loser Must Die" by Robert Kanigher and George Evans. Plus: *Gunner* and *Sarge* face an "Ordeal By Fire" by Wesley Marsh and E.R. Cruz.

SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS #12—*The Wizard* reveals his plan to attack the Earth with the aid of *Star Sapphire, Professor Zoom*, the *Floronic Man* and the *Blockbuster* in "The Plunder Plan" by Gerry Conway, Mike Vosburg and Bob McLeod.

SUPERBOY & THE LEGION #235—Why are the *Legionnaires* still so youthful? Paul Levitz and *Legion*-artist supreme Mike Grell reveal "The Legion's Super-Secret!" Plus: Gerry Conway records the "Trial of the Legion Five!"

SUPERMAN FAMILY #187—*Jimmy Olsen* faces the "Dealers of Death" (by Tom DeFalco and Win Mortimer), which leads into the *Superman* story "Pheonix of Steel" (by Gerry Conway, Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson), which leads into *Lois Lane* and the "Destruction of the Temple" (by DeFalco and Mortimer). Plus: *Krypto* ends his movie career in "Double Trouble" by Bob Toomey; *Supergirl* discovers the "Birthright of Power" by Jack C. Harris and Don Heck; and *Nightwing* and *Flamebird* fight a "Battle With the Bizarro Brain" by Paul Kupperberg, Ken Landgraf and Romeo Tanghal.

WEIRD WESTERN TALES #44—Vengeance belongs to *Scalphunter* as he tracks deadly killers in this sagebrush saga!

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW

BATMAN #295/DC SUPER-STARS #18 (The Phantom Stranger and *Deadman)/FREEDOM FIGHTERS #12/GHOSTS #60/MEN OF WAR #4/SGT. ROCK #312/SUPERMAN #319/WELCOME BACK, KOTTER #9*

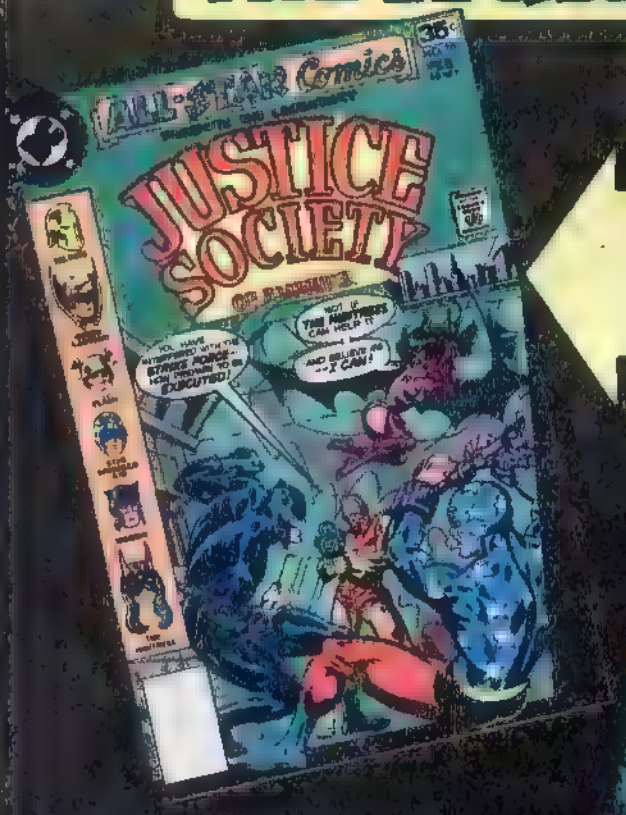
BIG NEWS!

DC's DYNAMIC NEW HEROINE

THE HUNTRESS

JOINS THE

JUSTICE SOCIETY!



ALL-STAR COMICS #70

ON SALE OCTOBER 18TH

SHADE

IS CAPTURED BY THE

SUPREME DECIDER!

LEARN THE *SECRET* OF THE *CHANGING MAN*-- AND THE *IDENTITY* OF THE MASTER VILLAIN!

SHADE #5-- ON SALE NOVEMBER 1ST!

EXTRA

The New York Courier

EXTRA

FRIDAY JUNE 13, 1940

THE YEAR WAS 1940. *FRANCE* HAD FALLEN BEFORE HITLER'S BLISTERING *ONSLAUGHT*, AND THE WORLD BELIEVED THAT *BRITAIN* WAS NEXT. THAT'S WHY *THE NEW YORK COURIER* HAD SENT ME, *WAYNE CLIFFORD*, TO BLACKED-OUT, BATTLE-SCARRED LONDON TO FILE A...

DATELINE: FRONTLINE

MY CROSSING WAS *UNEVENTFUL*, BUT THE TRAIN RIDE HAD GIVEN ME A MEASURE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOOD: *OUTWARDLY* DETERMINED AND DEFIANT, BUT *INWARDLY* STAVING OFF FEAR AND DESPAIR...

LONDON

NDON

LONDON EXPRESS

520

..THEIR COURAGE PATCHED TOGETHER BY FAITH IN THEIR OWN *VALUES* AND BY CHURCHILL'S BRILLIANT *RHETORIC*.

WRITER: *CARY BURKETT* • ARTIST: *JERRY GRANDENETTI*
COLORIST: *JERRY SERPE* • LETTERER: *BEN ODA*
EDITOR: *PAUL LEVITZ*

I WAS STILL *MUSING* MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS AS *BACKGROUND* FOR MY REPORTS WHEN I GOT TO THE HOTEL.

YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIRE THE BRITISH *SPIRIT*, BUT THEIR *POSITION* LOOKS--

EH? SOMEONE AT THE *DOOR*?

KNOCK KNOCK

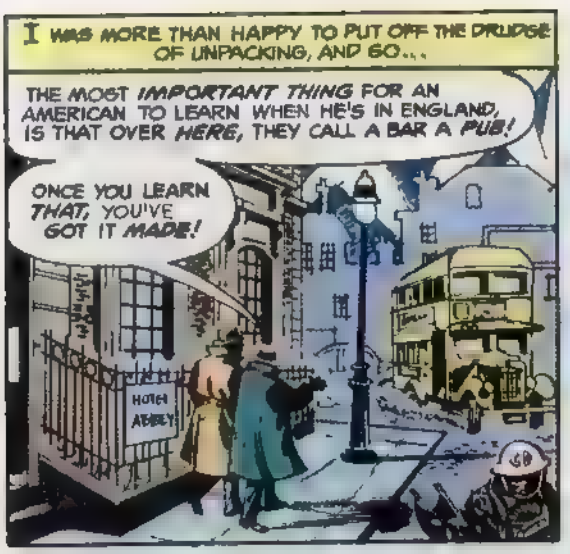
HIYA, PAL! I'M *BARNES*--ED BARNES OF THE *TELEGRAPH*!

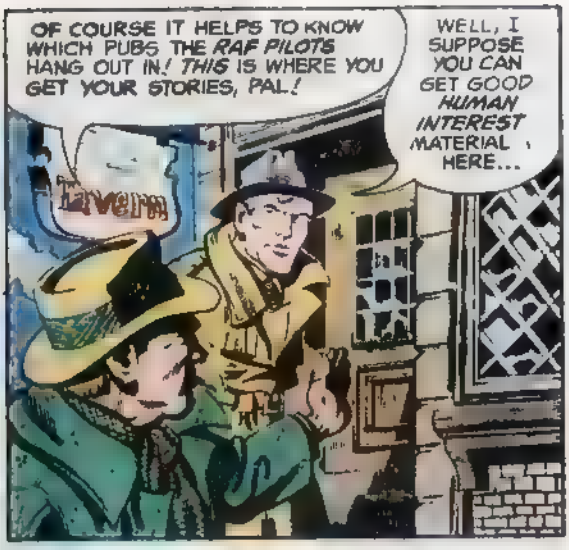
HEARD YOU WERE COMIN' IN TODAY, AND I THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU AN AMERICAN *WELCOME*!

WELL... UH... *THANK YOU*! I'M *WAYNE CLIFFORD*, MR. BARNES.

CALL ME *ED*, KID!

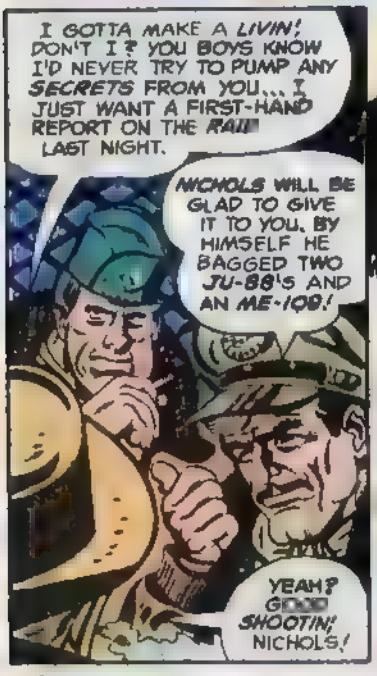
LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU SETTLE IN *LATER*? LET ME SHOW YOU *AROUND* A LITTLE!

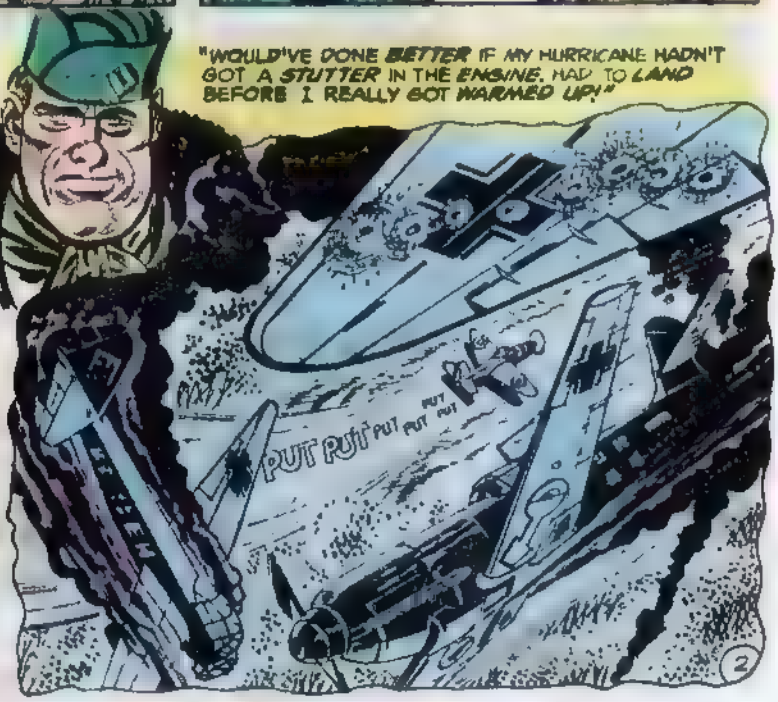

I WAS MORE THAN HAPPY TO PUT OFF THE DRUDGE OF UNPACKING, AND SO...
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR AN AMERICAN TO LEARN WHEN HE'S IN ENGLAND, IS THAT OVER HERE, THEY CALL A BAR A PUB!
ONCE YOU LEARN THAT, YOU'VE GOT IT MADE!
HOTEL ABBEY


OF COURSE IT HELPS TO KNOW WHICH PUBS THE RAF PILOTS HANG OUT IN! THIS IS WHERE YOU GET YOUR STORIES, PAL!
WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU CAN GET GOOD HUMAN INTEREST MATERIAL HERE...
Tavern

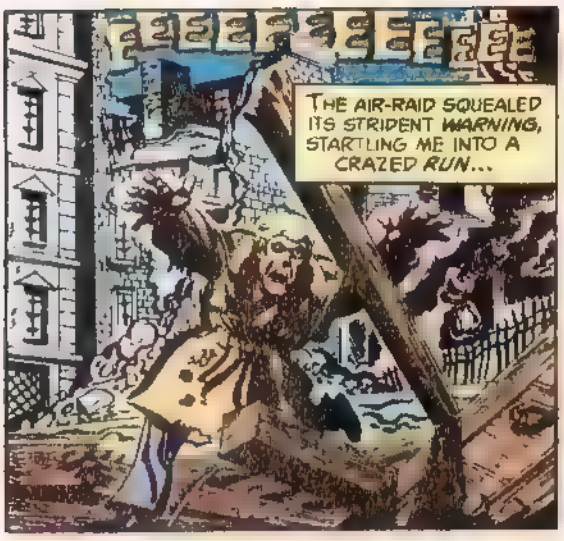
...BUT I'M REALLY LOOKING FOR A BROADER SCOPE--YOU KNOW, A SENSE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WHOLE CITY!
WELL, DON'T WORRY, KID! YOU'LL SOON OUTGROW THAT!
HEY, LOOK! THERE'S A COUPLA PILOTS! WATCH THIS!

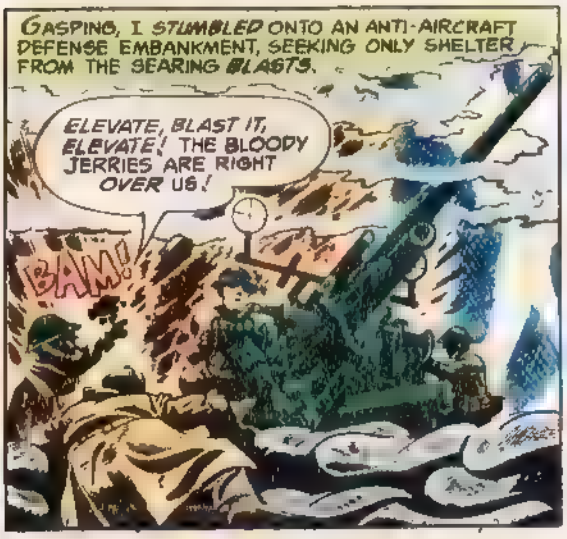
HIYA, PARKS...NICHOLS! GOOD TO SEE YOU BOYS! LEMME BUY YOU A ROUND!
HULLO, BARNES! SNIFFING OUT A STORY, ARE YOU?

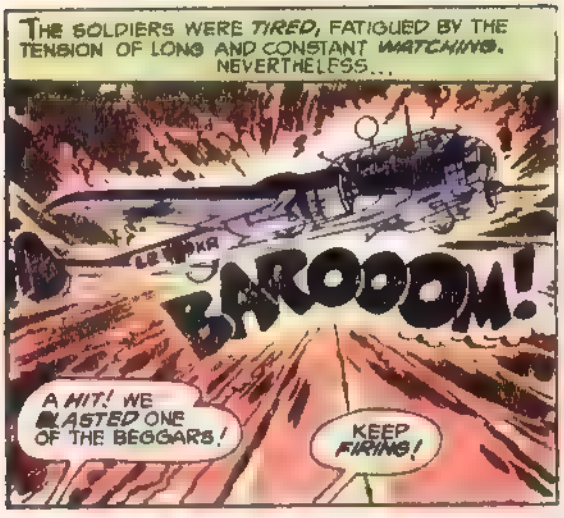

I GOTTA MAKE A LIVIN', DON'T I? YOU BOYS KNOW I'D NEVER TRY TO PUMP ANY SECRETS FROM YOU... I JUST WANT A FIRST-HAND REPORT ON THE RAID LAST NIGHT.
NICHOLS WILL BE GLAD TO GIVE IT TO YOU. BY HIMSELF HE BAGGED TWO JU-88'S AND AN ME-109!
YEAH? GOOD SHOOTIN', NICHOLS!

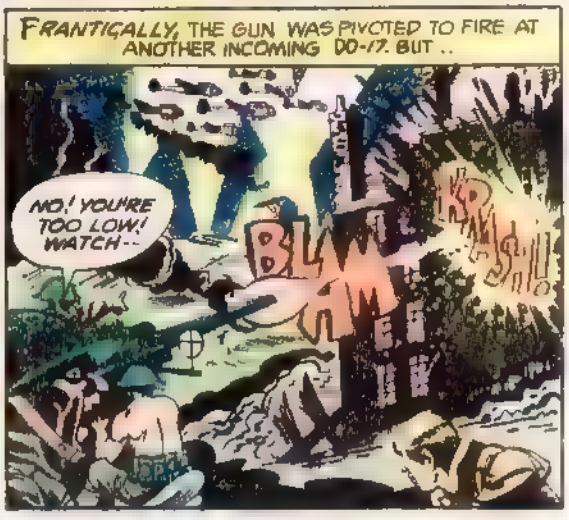

"WOULD'VE DONE BETTER IF MY HURRICANE HADN'T GOT A STUTTER IN THE ENGINE, HAD TO LAND BEFORE I REALLY GOT WARMED UP!"
PUT PUT PUT PUT PUT

TWO HOURS AND TOO MANY DRINKS LATER, WE LEFT THE PUB...
NOT BAD, HUH? I GOT ENOUGH MATERIAL FOR THREE STORIES!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RELY ON WHAT THOSE TWO PILOTS TOLD YOU!?
WHY NOT? IT'S EYEWITNESS STUFF, KID!
BUT THOSE PILOTS WERE JUST BRAGGING... STRINGING YOU ALONG SO YOU'D BUY THE DRINKS! AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHECK OUT WHAT THEY TOLD YOU?
LOOK, THIS IS THE KINDA STUFF THEY WANTA HEAR BACK HOME... THE BRAVE YOUNG BRITISH PILOT, Y'KNOW?
WAR BONDS
WHY KNOCK YOURSELF OUT? THE BRITISH CENSORS WON'T PASS MUCH ELSE ANYWAY!
THEY'RE FIGHTING A WAR, SONNY... THEY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR CORRESPONDENTS WHO DON'T TAKE THE RIGHT LINE!
I'LL ADMIT THAT I WAS SHAKEN BY ED'S WORDS, BUT I WAS DETERMINED TO REPORT AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE.
THAT'S WHY I BROKE CURFEW THAT NIGHT. I WANTED A FIRSTHAND VIEW OF THE CITY AT NIGHT... DARK AND SILENT, WATCHING FOR THE DEATH RAIN FROM THE SKIES.
IT WAS STUPID AND DANGEROUS, I KNOW, AND I COULD HAVE GOTTEN MYSELF INTO A LOT OF TROUBLE...
AS IT WAS, I GOT MORE THAT I BARGAINED FOR --
--MUCH MORE!
BRRAAAM!
AGHHHHH!
3

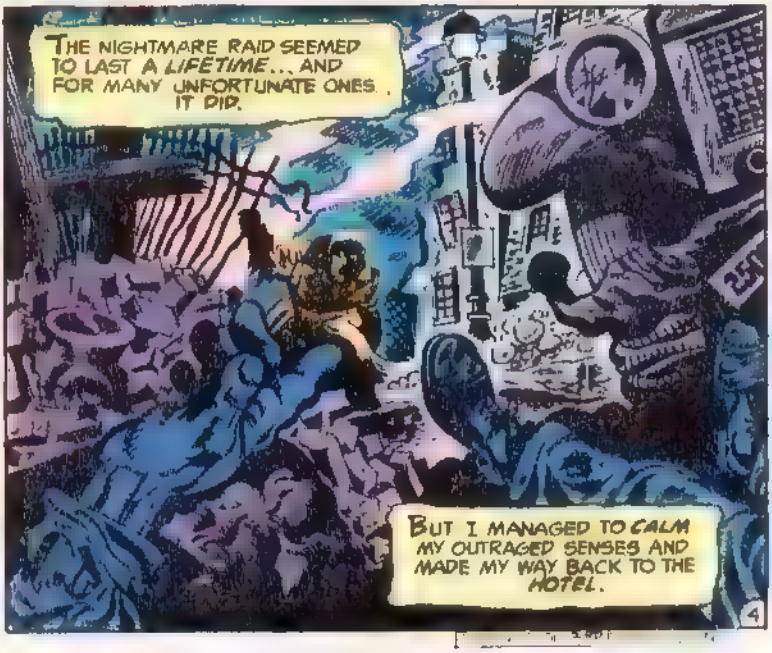

EEEEEEEEEEEE
THE AIR-RAID SQUEALED ITS STRIDENT WARNING, STARTLING ME INTO A CRAZED RUN...


GASPING, I STUMBLED ONTO AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE EMBANKMENT, SEEKING ONLY SHELTER FROM THE SEARING BLASTS.
ELEVATE, BLAST IT, ELEVATE! THE BLOODY JERRIES ARE RIGHT OVER US!
BAM!


THE SOLDIERS WERE TIRED, FATIGUED BY THE TENSION OF LONG AND CONSTANT WATCHING. NEVERTHELESS...
BAROOOM!
A HIT! WE BLASTED ONE OF THE BEGGARS!
KEEP FIRING!


FRANTICALLY, THE GUN WAS PIVOTED TO FIRE AT ANOTHER INCOMING DO-17. BUT..
NO! YOU'RE TOO LOW! WATCH--
BLAM!
KRAK!!

COR BLIMEY! WE SHELLED OUR OWN BUILDING!


THE NIGHTMARE RAID SEEMED TO LAST A LIFETIME... AND FOR MANY UNFORTUNATE ONES, IT DID.
BUT I MANAGED TO CALM MY OUTRAGED SENSES AND MADE MY WAY BACK TO THE HOTEL.
4

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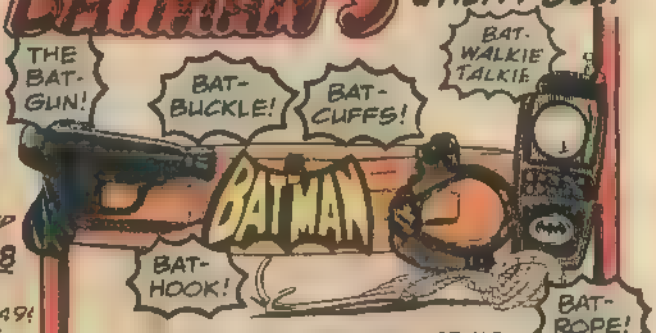

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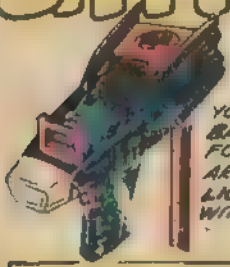

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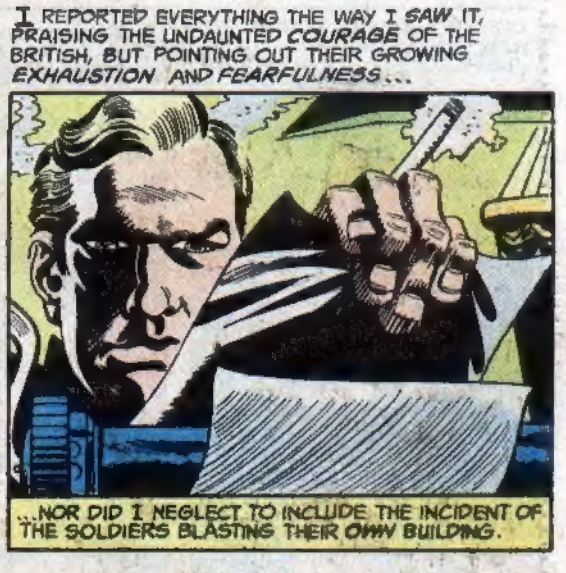
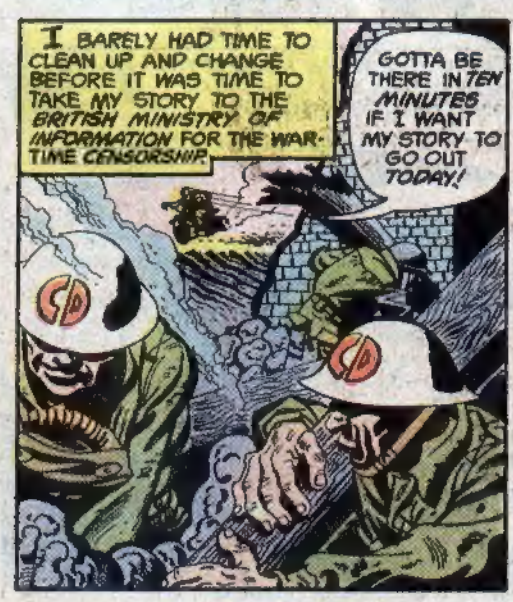
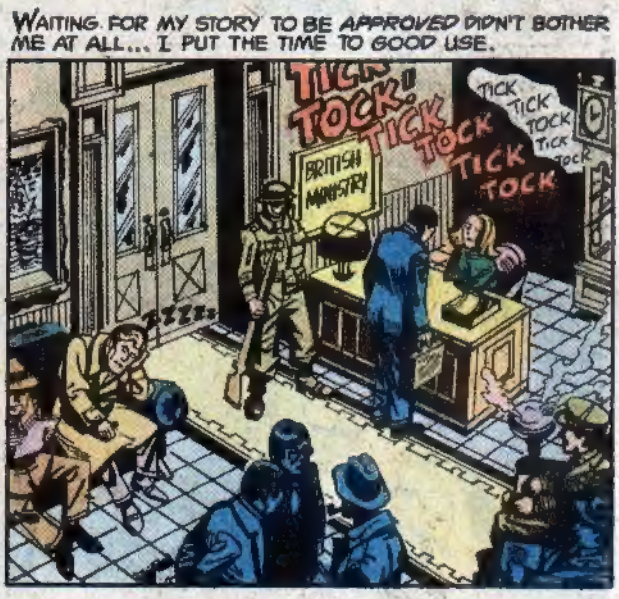
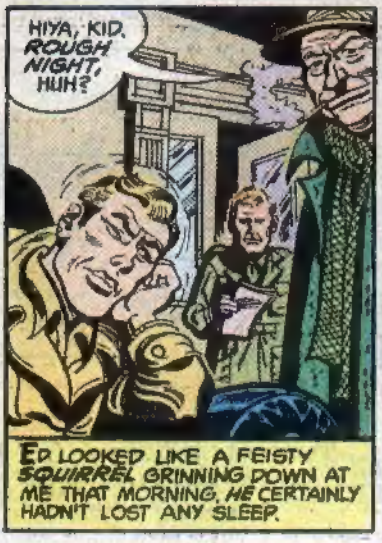
ONCE THERE, THE LONG NIGHT BECAME EVEN LONGER FOR ME AS I POUNDED OUT MY EYEWITNESS REPORT...


I REPORTED EVERYTHING THE WAY I SAW IT, PRAISING THE UNDAUNTED COURAGE OF THE BRITISH, BUT POINTING OUT THEIR GROWING EXHAUSTION AND FEARFULNESS...
...NOR DID I NEGLECT TO INCLUDE THE INCIDENT OF THE SOLDIERS BLASTING THEIR OWN BUILDING.


I BARELY HAD TIME TO CLEAN UP AND CHANGE BEFORE IT WAS TIME TO TAKE MY STORY TO THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF INFORMATION FOR THE WARTIME CENSORSHIP.
GOTTA BE THERE IN TEN MINUTES IF I WANT MY STORY TO GO OUT TODAY!


WAITING FOR MY STORY TO BE APPROVED DIDN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL... I PUT THE TIME TO GOOD USE.
TICK TOCK! TICK TOCK
BRITISH MINISTRY
TICK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK


HIYA, KID. ROUGH NIGHT, HUH?
ED LOOKED LIKE A FEISTY SQUIRREL GRINNING DOWN AT ME THAT MORNING. HE CERTAINLY HADN'T LOST ANY SLEEP.

THEY'RE BRINGING OUR STORIES BACK NOW, KID! GOOD LUCK!
IF I HADN'T BEEN SO FUZZY-HEADED, I MIGHT HAVE WONDERED WHAT ED MEANT BY THAT.

BARNES: YOUR STORY APPROVED... NO CHANGES.
5

CLIFFORD: SORRY, YOUR STORY CAN'T BE PASSED.
WHAT!?! BUT WHY?!?
THE CLERK LOOKED ME RIGHT IN THE EYE, AND NOT A MUSCLE IN HIS FACE TWITCHED AS HE SAID IT...
INACCURATE... YOUR STORY IS INACCURATE.
I MUST HAVE LOOKED A SORRY SIGHT, STANDING THERE HAGGARD WITH FATIGUE AND NUMB WITH DISAPPOINTMENT.
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND... I TOLD THE FACTS...
YEAH, I KNOW, KID.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE FACTS, Y'KNOW... THE TRUTH!
YOU'VE GOTTA WRITE THE STORIES THEY WANT, OR YOU'LL NEVER GET PAST THE CENSORS.
AND THE TRUTH IS, THAT IN A WAR, EVEN FACTS CAN BE LETHAL WEAPONS! YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE AMMUNITION TO THE ENEMY!
YOU CAN JUSTIFY IT BY THINKING OF THESE BRAVE PEOPLE HERE... THEIR MORALE NEEDS ALL THE BOOSTS IT CAN GET, Y'KNOW.
OR YOU CAN TAKE IT LIKE ME--WITH A SHRUG OF THE SHOULDERS AND A DRINK IN THE HAND.
BRITISH MINIS
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I COULD USE ONE RIGHT NOW! JOIN ME?
I HESITATED, STRUGGLING WITH CONFUSION AND INDECISION.
I HAD NO ANSWERS, ONLY QUESTIONS. ALL I KNEW WAS THAT, AT THE MOMENT...
...I COULD USE A DRINK TOO.
BRITISH MINISTRY
WARTIME
THE END
6

L-799

Dear Paul,

Well, if you had asked me, I would have said that what DC needed least was another war mag. We have enough characters endlessly fighting World War Two as it is. However, **MEN OF WAR** looks like a war mag with a pleasant difference: serious characterizations. And that's a welcome change from the usual one-sided macho-heroics that most war series continuously indulge in.

Code Name: Gravedigger, the lead series, seems to dare conventions enough by starring a black character. It goes further, though, in showing behind-the-scenes injustices and prejudices. David Michelinie, in #1, gave us a very sensitive script, letting us get into the head of the central character very well.

The art by Ed Davis and Romeo Tanghal was, well, gritty. What better feel for a series like this! I thought they did a wonderful job on the flashback on pages 7 and 8.

It's also very nice to see **Enemy Ace** getting a regular place. It's long, long overdue. This is a fine companion series. Like **Code Name: Gravedigger**, it's from a different perspective than usual, and it's not merely "us against them" loud-mouthing.

The story by Bob Kanigher underlined your comment on the text page, that in war **the** enemy is death. Von Hammer survives, day after day, encounter after encounter, because he has resigned himself to this fact and icily persues his duty with it in mind.

I'm no aviation history buff so I can't vouch for accuracy, but I enjoyed the art by Ed Davis and Juan Ortiz. It would be great if **Enemy Ace** were given a little bit of room to breathe. Would it be possible to alternate **Code Name: Gravedigger** and **Enemy Ace** as the lead feature?

Joseph A. Pilla
3301 Henderson Mill Road
Chamblee, Georgia 30341

Anything is possible if reader reaction demands it loudly enough, Joseph—including spinning **Enemy Ace** off into his own magazine. Meanwhile, we're giving the Hammer of Hell a three-issue pass in order to introduce the new series featured in this issue—it's Assistant Editor Cary Burkett's first series outing, and we think it fits well within the **MEN OF WAR** banner, showing that the front line doesn't end with the soldiers.

Enemy Ace will be back, however, in the very near future, for even as this is being written Bob Kanigher is working on a new three-part saga . . . and after that, we have the Black Knights of World War Two returning in a three-parter written and illustrated by Howie Chaykin. All this should add up to an ever-changing and ever-exciting line-up for **MOW**.—PL.

. . . . . .

. . . The only reason I bought **MEN OF WAR** #1 was because it was a number one. When I started reading it I thought it would be boring, but after the very first page I loved it. I don't really care about **Enemy Ace** but as long as **Gravedigger** is in **MOW** I'll buy it.

Leonard Bench
540 N.W. Towle
Gresham, Oregon 97030

. . . . . .

. . . **MEN OF WAR** is a fantastic war mag, and a totally new concept. I was really glad to see David Michelinie scripting this mag. After he left the **Unknown Soldier** I thought he was through scripting war mags, and I think Ed Davis is an excellent choice as well. He draws with a lot of detail and has good layout design.

Robert Bertoglio
1151 E. Groventer Street
West Covina, California 91790

. . . . . .

. . . There is one place where DC surpasses Marvel, and that's in your war comics. **SGT. ROCK** is my favorite, but **MEN OF WAR** looks like a winner and I'm anxiously awaiting next issue.

Keith Nishimi
6531 Red Coach Drive
Huntington Beach, California 92647

. . . . . .

These are just some of the raves that greeted the first issue—representing far and way the best mail bag of comments on any war mag we've ever worked on. Let's close this column with one more full letter, though:

. . . . . .

Dear Paul,

MEN OF WAR should turn into DC's most interesting war mag. Both characters are quite unique and **Gravedigger** shows good potential. In just this first issue its already obvious that he'll be a provoking character. And that teaser indicates that things will be popping quite soon.

But I hope this doesn't turn into a black-versus-white crusade. If you want to have him in opposition to the bureaucratic system, fine, but he should make some white friends along the way. Don't let **MOW** turn into a breeding ground for racism.

Gerald Duet
1319 Elizardi Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

We consider **Gravedigger** to a man-versus-prejudice crusade, if it's any kind of a crusade at all. And after all, prejudice in one form or another was the key issue of World War Two, and institutionalized racism was the principal difference between the two sides.

As for **Gravedigger** making white friends, we doubt that he'll be making any new friends for a while—he'll be too busy trying to survive.—PL.

. . . . . .

This issue concludes Hazard's four-issue baptism of fire. Next time, we'll kick off the series' regular run . . . with a new writer stepping in to take over for David Michelinie, who is departing these pages to prepare a newly revived **CLAW** for winter release. Taking over will be Roger McKenzie, a new face here at DC but a star at Warren Publishing for the past two years. Be with us.—Paul Levitz, Editor.

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